



# *Proclamation*

## *Presented In Recognition of*

### **National Foster Care Month**

**WHEREAS**, National Foster Care Month provides an opportunity to bring attention to the experiences of more than 1,200 children in foster care in Hawai'i and the more than 400,000 children and youth in foster care nationwide; and

**WHEREAS**, National Foster Care Month raises awareness of the urgent need for Resource Caregivers in Hawai'i to provide care for large sibling groups, older youth and the more than 1,200 children in foster care; and

**WHEREAS**, National Foster Care Month encourages the people of Hawai'i to get involved by becoming Resource Caregivers, volunteers and mentors or by providing support for Resource Caregivers, children in foster care and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, National Foster Care Month highlights the issue of foster care and gives special recognition to the tremendous contributions of Resource Caregivers to the children in their care; and

**WHEREAS**, National Foster Care Month reminds us all that children who cannot remain with their families still deserve stable, loving care by nurturing adults until they can safely reunite with their families or establish lifelong relationships; and

**WHEREAS**, National Foster Care Month recognizes the many dedicated individuals whose help has ensured that formerly abused or neglected children and teens are safely reunited with their parents, cared for by relatives or adopted by loving families; and

**WHEREAS**, National Foster Care Month pays tribute to the many advocates, child welfare professionals and organizations, schools, churches and government agencies for their dedication and support; through their efforts, there has been a significant decrease in the number of children in foster care in Hawai'i; and

**WHEREAS**, National Foster Care Month has been supported locally by:

- **Partners in Development Foundation, Hui Ho'omalua**, which was created in 2006 to implement innovative strategies to better meet the needs of Hawai'i's children in foster care as well as the Resource Families that care for them and addresses the identification, recruitment, screening, training and ongoing support and retention of resource families for children that are in care of the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services; and
- **Hale Kipa**, which began in 1970 as a single group home on O'ahu, is a non-profit agency that specializes in working with at-risk youth and their families that has expanded to help more than 2,000 youth and families annually through 19 locations on O'ahu, Maui, the Island of Hawai'i, and Kaua'i;

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, BRIAN SCHATZ, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 2012 as**

## **“NATIONAL FOSTER CARE MONTH”**

in Hawai'i, and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in commending the selfless contributions of Hawai'i's Resource Caregivers, applauding the various organizations and institutions that have impacted our *keiki* in the foster care system.

**DONE**, at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this twenty-seventh day of April, 2012.

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

**BRIAN SCHATZ**  
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i